

Applicant : Bradley L. Northman et al.
Appln. No. : 09/586,813
Page : 7

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to their representatives during a personal interview conducted on November 13, 2002.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 2 to add a period and thereby overcome the objection raised on page 2 of the Office Action. Also, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 in the manner discussed during the interview, to which the Examiner appeared to agree would place claim 1 in condition for allowance. Applicants have also added new claims 7-20. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are now pending.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,253,109 issued to O'Farrell et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,481,409 issued to Roberts. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over O'Farrell et al. in view of Roberts and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,882,565 issued to Gallmeyer. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as they apply to amended claim 1 for the reasons stated during the interview and outlined below.

During the interview, it was pointed out that the Roberts patent does not disclose a display having an indicia panel that has a characteristic color, nor does it disclose a light source for projecting light having a color matched to the characteristic color of the indicia panel so as to illuminate the indicia panel. Furthermore, Roberts does not disclose the use of a

Applicant : Bradley L. Northman et al.
Appln. No. : 09/586,813
Page : 8

window formed in the reflective layer of a mirror subassembly. It was noted that the "matching" that is referenced in Roberts pertains to the matching of the transmission characteristics of the dichroic mirror used therein to the light transmitted from the displays (28) that are disclosed as being placed behind the dichroic mirror subassembly. Such a dichroic mirror, however, would not be utilized when there is an open window in the reflective layer as recited in the claims. Based upon the conversations during the interview, it is apparent that the Examiner was in agreement that Roberts did not disclose these features, nor did the combination of Roberts and O'Farrell et al. teach or suggest the features recited in independent claim 1. Furthermore, the Gallmeyer patent does not disclose the deficiencies with respect to the combination of the Roberts and O'Farrell et al. patents relative to independent claim 1 or claim 6, which depends from claim 1.

For the reasons stated above, Applicants submit that independent claim 1, as well as claims 2-6, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the teachings of O'Farrell et al., Roberts, and Gallmeyer whether considered separately or in combination.

New claim 7 depends from claim 1 and is therefore believed to be allowable for at least those reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

New independent claim 8 recites that the indicia panel includes three indicia symbols where the first indicia symbol has an amber color. This claim further recites that the light sources transmit amber colored light, which passes through the indicia panel. For reasons similar to those stated above with respect to independent claim 1 and discussed during the

Applicant : Bradley L. Northman et al.
Appln. No. : 09/586,813
Page : 9

interview, Applicants submit that independent claim 8 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Accordingly, claims 9-19, which depend from claim 8, are allowable over the prior art.

New independent claim 20 recites similar features to those recited in independent claim 1 insofar as the indicia panel is configured to form a visual display having a characteristic color and whereby a plurality of LEDs emits light matched in color to the characteristic color of the visual display. Accordingly, Applicants submit that new independent claim 20 is allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present invention, as defined by the pending claims, is allowable over the prior art of record. The Examiner's reconsideration and timely allowance of the claims is requested. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BRADLEY L. NORTHMAN ET AL.

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
DeWitt & Litton

FAX RECEIVED

NOV 18 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

11-18-02

Date


Terry S. Callaghan

Registration No. 34 559

695 Kenmoor, S.E.

Post Office Box 2567

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501

(616) 949-9610

TSC/rsw

Applicant : Bradley L. Northman et al.
Appln. No. : 09/586,813
Page : 10

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 2 as follows:

1. (Amended) A mirror comprising:

a housing:

a mirror subassembly including a reflector layer with a portion defining an opening;

an indicia panel covering the opening and configured to form a visual display having a characteristic color; and

at least one light source positioned in the housing to pass light through the indicia panel and the opening of the mirror subassembly to selectively illuminate the visual display, the at least one light source emitting a light matched in color to the characteristic color of the visual display of the indicia panel ~~so that a maximum of light from the at least one light source passes through the indicia panel and is visible to a vehicle driver.~~

2. (Amended) The mirror defined in claim 1, wherein the mirror subassembly includes an electrochromic mirror subassembly, the electrochromic mirror subassembly including front and rear transparent elements, and a layer of electrochromic material associated with the front and rear transparent elements, the reflector layer being associated with the rear transparent element_{7,2}.